

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

October 2011 – Week 3

Air Date: October 16 – October 22 (Sunday – Saturday)



### TITLE: NEIGHBORS MEET IN EL PASO

OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AND EL PASO PLAYS HOST TO HISTORY.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

OCTOBER 16, 1909. EL PASO. U.S. PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT IS HERE TO MEET MEXICAN PRESIDENT PORFIRIO DIAZ. IT'S THE FIRST EVER MEETING BETWEEN A U.S. AND A MEXICAN PRESIDENT.

IN A GRAND CEREMONY THE TWO LEADERS MEET IN EL PASO THEN CROSS THE BORDER TO JUAREZ.

BOTH MEN ARE BILINGUAL SO THEY NEED NO TRANSLATORS. TAFT IS LARGE, JOVIAL AND NEWLY ELECTED. DIAZ IS AGED AND FEEBLE WITH THIRTY-FOUR YEARS IN OFFICE.

AT A STATE DINNER THEY MAKE A TOAST TO THEIR MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP.

A YEAR LATER, DIAZ IS OUSTED AND MEXICO IS THROWN INTO CIVIL WAR. WITHIN A DECADE A HUNDRED THOUSAND U.S. TROOPS LINE THE BORDER.

TAFT AND DIAZ MET 102 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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W. H. Timmons, "TAFT-DIAZ MEETING," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mgt09>), accessed October 6, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association..

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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